

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on April 4, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 36 and 37, and cancelled claim 35 without prejudice. Claims 36 and 37 are the independent claims, and claims 36-41 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claim 35 was rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by *Moriyama* (US 5,790,092). This rejection is respectfully moot, as claim 35 has been cancelled.

Claims 36, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Moriyama* with *Kitamura* (US 5,682,175). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 36 has been amended into independent form, and continues to recite a step of "equalizing the potentials of all of said second signal lines during said transition times".

The Office Action admits that *Moriyama* fails to teach the above recited step of "equalizing the potentials of all of said second signal lines during said transition times", and relies upon column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 5 of *Kitamura* as teaching this step.

The above cited passage of *Kitamura* describes a method of short-circuiting

the three sampling signals (e.g. S1, S2, S3) that control the sampling timing of the red, green, and blue sample/hold circuits (e.g., BF1, BF2, BF3) that sample the red, green, and blue display data on the signal lines marked R, G, and B, so that the red, green, and blue data are sampled at the same time (column 4, lines 9-12).

This differs from amended claim 36 as follows.

Amended claim 36 recites “equalizing the potentials of all of said second signal lines” (S1 to Sm in the drawings) instead of equalizing groups of three signal lines (e.g., S1, S2, S3) separately as taught by *Kitamura*.

More significantly, claim 36 states that the second signal lines are driven with signals representing picture-element intensities. In *Kitamura*'s drawings, the signals representing picture-element intensities are carried on the R, G, and B signal lines, not the S1, S2, S3,... signal lines.

In short, *Kitamura* teaches a method of causing the three (red, green, and blue) data signals pertaining to the same picture element to be sampled at the same timing, but says nothing about equalizing the data voltages themselves. Amended claim 36 teaches a method of equalizing the potentials of all signal lines carrying signals representing picture-element intensities, and is not concerned with red, blue, and green data sampling timings.

Consequently neither *Moriyama* nor *Kitamura*, whether taken separately or in combination, teach or suggest “equalizing the potentials of all of said second

signal lines during said transition times” as recited in claim 36, and claim 36 is therefore allowable, together with claims 38 and 39 that depend therefrom.

Claims 37, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Moriyama* with *Hayashi et al.* (US 5,818,413). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 37 has been amended into independent form and now also recites “equalizing the potentials of a pair of said first signal lines *to an intermediate level intermediate between the active and inactive levels* when both of the first signal lines in said pair are undergoing transitions between said active and inactive levels” (*emphasis added*), as illustrated in Fig. 12 and discussed on page 15, lines 20-31 of the specification.

The Office Action admits that *Moriyama* fails to teach a step of equalizing the potentials of a pair of said first signal lines when both of the first signal lines in said pair are undergoing transitions between said active and inactive levels, and cites switching means 5 in Fig. 1B of *Hayashi et al.*, and column 6, lines 26 to 31 thereof, to remedy this deficiency in *Moriyama*.

Hayashi et al. teaches a display apparatus that can handle both interlaced and non-interlaced scanning. In the non-interlaced mode, the pulses (A1, B1, C1, D1,...) that correspond to the first signals of the present invention are active one at a time, as shown in Fig. 2. In the interlaced mode, the corresponding pulses are active two at a time, as shown in Fig. 3, where first A2 and B2 are active, then C2 and D2 are active, and so on.

This differs from amended claim 37 as follows.

Amended claim 37 requires equalization of a pair of first signal lines “to an intermediate level intermediate between the active and inactive levels”, as shown in the short transition intervals marked Δt in Fig. 12.

Hayashi et al. says nothing about such an intermediate potential. The signals shown by *Hayashi et al.* in Figs. 2 and 3 are always either active or inactive (high or low), in contrast to Fig. 12 of the present application. In Fig. 3, *Hayashi et al.* is concerned with timing adjustments that equalize the timing of the transitions of signals A2, B2, C2, and D2, and is not concerned with equalizing the potentials of, say, signals B2 and C2 during their common transition period.

Note that the switches (SW) in *Hayashi et al.*'s Fig. 1B are used to feed the same signal (e.g., signal 'b') to either two AND gates or just one AND gate. They are not used to equalize the potential on the 'b' signal line to the potential on the adjacent signal line 'a' or 'c' because they do not connect signal line 'b' with signal line 'a' or 'c'. This should be compared with Fig. 14 of the present application, in which switches SWG₁, SWG₂,... interconnect pairs of adjacent signal lines G₁, G₂, G₃,....

Consequently neither *Moriyama* nor *Hayashi et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, teach or suggest “equalizing the potentials of a pair of said first signal lines *to an intermediate level intermediate between the active and inactive levels* when both of the first signal lines in said pair are undergoing

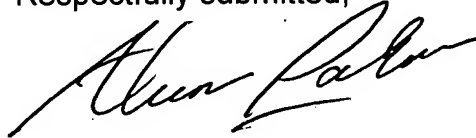
transitions between said active and inactive levels” as recited in claim 37, and claim 37 is therefore allowable, together with claims 40 and 41 that depend therefrom.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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